

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

An Editorial

By Grover C. Whyte

What is the REAL ISSUE at the recall election next Tuesday, July 29?

This is the question that thoughtful citizens will want to settle in their own minds before casting their ballots next week.

Regardless of all the heated arguments, blasted personalities, cowardly innuendos, whispered falsehoods and other forms of political hatred, the one big issue at stake as far as the average voter is concerned is GOOD GOVERNMENT. By this we mean, the betterment of the entire community, protection of homes and the safeguarding of our women and children.

None of us know what is in store before the terms of the present city council members expire. There may be grave questions of civilian defense as the result of the fast moving international war. Other communities are already actively mapping plans to protect their residents and their property. We will want men at the helm of our city government who will be alert to the perils and capable of effectively meeting any emergency. It will require men of strong character and sound judgment, whose honesty is unquestioned.

Because Torrance is situated in the heart of the defense area, great opportunities for rapid growth and increased employment are offered. We should have men representing our city who can make the most of these advancements.

None of the three councilmen who are up for recall next Tuesday measure up to these requirements, as has been shown by their actions. Full opportunity of appraising these men has been given by The Herald, thru its almost verbatim report of everything that has been said and done at the council sessions. Regardless of what may be claimed by biased politicians, the official minutes of the council meetings contain nothing of importance that has not been accurately reported through these columns.

There seems little need to review all that has happened. Surely everyone who has followed their actions and studied their motives knows by now that Councilmen Powell, Murray and Babcock are wholly unfit for the offices they hold and they should be recalled.

The important thing to remember is to get out and vote next Tuesday. And be sure to indicate on your ballot that the vacancies shall be filled "by special election." Otherwise, if a majority of the council is recalled, the recallees themselves would remain in office long enough to appoint their successors and the whole recall movement would be scuttled.

Attorney Holds Young Is Still City Engineer

Torrance now has two city engineers.

Leonard Young, who is recovering from a serious illness that forced him off duty August 1, 1940, is still holder of that title under the municipal civil service ordinance. City Attorney John E. McCall informed the city council Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Glenn Jain, who was appointed city engineer and "director of public works" on Councilman George V. Powell's motion July 15, will continue to retain that title. Powell informed City Clerk A. H. Bartlett "our action will stand until such time as Young reports for duty."

McCall's opinion held that Young was "blanketed" under the civil service law adopted on May 27 and the attorney said the "only reason he was off the payroll was because of his health."

Clerk Bartlett, on checking over payments made to city workers forced to give up their duties because of ill health, reported the late Frank Leonard received four weeks pay before he died in 1938, that the late L. O. Stevens drew one warrant and Leonard Young had received and Leonard Young had received five weeks' pay, the last check being dated November 13, 1940.

Vultee Eliminates Roofers From Tourney

Vultee Vultarians washed Walker Roofers out of the California Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament at Torrance city park last night by a score of 11 to 2. When Al DeHoag tired, the Roofers were left without pitching support and the Vultarians collected a total of 15 hits while the Roofers got eight. Emerson Blackwell, pitching for Vultee, held the Roofers scoreless until the last of the ninth. Tonight Pepsi Cola plays Calers Foods in a game at 8 o'clock that will eliminate the loser from the Torrance tourney. For a full report on this week's games see page 3-B.

BAND TO SAN PEDRO

The Torrance Municipal band will participate in the parade which will be one of the features of San Pedro's celebration marking the start of municipal ferry service between that city and Terminal Island August 8. The council voted Tuesday night to send the band to the parade at a cost of \$75 plus transportation.

Call Herald for Election Returns Tuesday Night

The Herald will give returns on the recall election, Tuesday night, July 29.

Arrangements have been made for quick tabulation of the results as fast as the 16 polling places report their tallies.

You are invited to call Torrance 444 from 8 to 10 o'clock for information on the outcome of the vote. The final result is expected before 10 o'clock.

Where To Vote Next Tuesday

Torrance voters may cast their ballots at the recall election next Tuesday, July 29, at the 16 regular precinct polling places. The polls will open at 6 a. m. and close at 7 p. m. The voting centers are:

- Prec. 1—18127 Prairie ave.
- Prec. 2—2576 El Dorado.
- Prec. 3—716 Border ave.
- Prec. 4—1534 Marcolina ave.
- Prec. 5—1322 Engracia ave.
- Prec. 6—1027 Anapola ave.
- Prec. 7—1417 Cota ave.
- Prec. 8—1734 Arlington ave.
- Prec. 9—2013 Arlington ave.
- Prec. 10—23010 Narbonne ave.
- Prec. 11—2720 W. Carson st.
- Prec. 12—Walteria school.
- Prec. 13—807 Portola ave.
- Prec. 14—1307 Portola ave.
- Prec. 15—Hotel dining room, 1915 Cabrillo ave.
- Prec. 16—Recreation center, Walteria.

Week's Building Totals \$8,540

Building permits issued during the past week totalled \$8,540, according to records at the city engineer's office which showed the following construction projects underway:

Henry Grubb, six-room frame and stucco residence with garage attached at 1640 Beech st., \$5,000; P. N. Vernon, three-room frame residence at 5422 Emerald st., \$1,000; Mrs. R. M. Worrell, re-roof residence at 1542 El Prado, \$150; Thomas Thistle, alterations and repairs to residence at 2448 Park st., Walteria, \$300; Tachel Kamil, reconstruction of a moved-in glass greenhouse at 18715 South Western ave., \$1,000; Torrance National Bank, alterations to store building at 1327 Sartori ave., \$950; and Lester L. Wright, service porch addition to residence at 907 Beech st., \$80.

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AUDITOR TELLS COURT SABOTAGE

Council Mum as Rambo Exposes Felonious Crime

Bluntly and with the calm dispassion of a surgeon wielding a scalpel on some malignant growth, C. J. Rambo, city auditor for 14 years until 1940, informed the city council and a large audience Tuesday night of what he termed was the "boldest and crudest methods of changes and alterations" in court records he had ever seen.

These alterations, Rambo declared constituting "a diabolical, dastardly attempt to sabotage the good name of a fellow citizen" (former Judge Robert Lessing) made him wonder "if since I had ceased to be auditor for the city whether Torrance was still a part of the Democracy or in Little Russia."

The only direct response to Rambo's sensational charges of criminal forgery of court records since his last survey of those books was a motion by Councilman John V. Murray instructing Logan G. Cotton, present city auditor who made a special investigation of the court records May 12 costing \$750, to clarify his report at the next council session. Even this explanation of the fraudulent records will not be given publicly until after the July 29 recall election because the next council meeting is scheduled for August 12.

Revelations Go Unquestioned, Unanswered
Following his statement, no one—councilman or spectator—asked a single question concerning the changes in the court records that make Judge Lessing appear responsible for gross misconduct in office. There was no comment about the Rambo revelations which were accompanied by examples of how the alterations were made, drawn on a blackboard in front of the jam-packed council chamber. The only questions and comments from Councilmen George V. Powell, Leonard V. Babcock and Murray referred to their appearance before the County Grand Jury in 1940, a year before it was possible for the court records to be altered and changed.

"When I examined records of the city court on July 5 I saw one of the boldest and crudest methods of changes and alterations I have ever seen in my public life," Rambo declared. "I will show you just what I saw." He then went to a large blackboard and drew what he said was a "copy of a page of a purported audited report May 12, 1941 of the city court setting forth 15 cases dating back to January 1937—all alleging shortage in Lessing's accounts."

Cites Examples of Altered Records

An exact copy of his blackboard illustration follows:

5.00 "suspended"
5.00 "suspended"
10.00 "
BEFORE . . . how entries in court records looked before criminal alterations were made.
50.00 "suspended"
50.00 "suspended"
70.00

AFTER . . . here's how the same entries appeared after someone had "doctored" them recently.

"A memorandum of a \$5.00 suspended fine had been checked by myself in 1939 and later by an auditor for the district attorney's office. Two weeks ago that notation looked like this," he said, writing the example below to show how \$5.00 had been changed to \$50 and the "suspended" crossed out to make it appear as though a \$50 fine had been levied and collected.

"Here we have a '\$5.00 suspended' item becoming \$50. The dot in the center of the '0' making the '50' is still apparent and the 'suspended' is marked out. I'll give you another instance: '\$10.00' with my audit check mark—and an item audited at least three times in the past—has become '\$70.00' when someone crudely changed the '1' to a '7'.

"The difference in writing and color of ink permits no possible mistake and my check mark is still there. Photographs and micro-examination will prove this line drawn through the word 'suspended' was most recent," Rambo pointed out.

"That's the type of evidence that accuses Lessing of a shortage," Rambo said.

Recalls Slurring Remarks at Council Sessions

Prefacing his statement with the reminder that he and his firm had served the city of Torrance for 14 years from 1926 to 1940, Rambo said that his company, for more than 26 years has specialized exclusively in municipal accounting and grand jury auditing, that his firm is the only "specialist in the west for this type of accounting and we do more of it than any other concern in the west."

"I have heard and read a number of slurring and derogatory remarks made here and across the council table regarding myself and my company in recent weeks. I am here to make definite, independent statements for the benefit of the city council and the people of Torrance."

"Two weeks ago last Saturday, July 5, I saw upon the official records of the city court some things that made me think. I had to wonder that since I had ceased to be auditor for the city whether Torrance was still part of the Democracy or in Little Russia.

Analyses Purchase of Water System

"We have heard a lot about sabotage, political intrigue and

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Selectee Total Is 177 In This Area As 3 Men Leave

Bringing the total of young men from this district who have been inducted into the Army by the Selective Service Act to 177, three left Tuesday morning for a Los Angeles induction center. They were given a brief farewell program in front of the Torrance City Auditorium and departed aboard a Torrance municipal bus.

The trio composing the 14th Selective Service contingent were: James Hunt Haines, 25, printer on the Torrance Herald staff, of 1447 Post ave.

Amos Richard Rockvam, 24, accountant, of Hollywood, formerly of 1305 Post ave., and Thomas Schoichi Kadamoto, 24, wholesale nursery salesman, of Rt. 2, Box 104, Gardena.

The 15th Selective Service call-out will take but one man from this area, it was announced at the board headquarters in Torrance today. He is scheduled to leave sometime between Aug. 4 and 6.

Charge Election Sheet Violates State Statutes

Pointing out that the campaign sheet attacking those favoring recall of Councilmen Powell, Murray and Babcock, which was distributed here earlier this week, violated the state Criminal and Election laws and contained many libelous statements, George M. Bumpus demanded Tuesday night that the city council "instruct law enforcement officials of the municipality to investigate the public offenses involved and to prosecute the persons responsible" for the publication of the four page handbill.

He also called on the council to "counsel said officials to maintain vigilance against a recurrence of any such open and notorious flouting of the law."

Publisher Conceal Names
Bumpus, who is secretary of the Torrance Citizens Committee for Good Government, said the campaign sheet entitled "Torrance Recall News" does not bear on its face the name and address of the printer and publisher, as required by law. His letter to the city council also pointed out that the sheet did not give "the name of the chairman and secretary or the names of two officers at least of the political or other organization issuing it" nor did it reveal the name and residence, with the street and number thereof, if any, of some voter of this state who is responsible therefor.

Bumpus also called the council's attention to the fact that "many of the allegations contained in said folder are false in fact, libelous per se, and are aggravated by malice."

On motion by Councilman Murray, the letter from Bumpus was referred to the legal department to be placed in the files.

U.S.O. Campaign Here Needs Help

In the absence of General Chairman Earl Conner, who is on vacation, Dean Sears, treasurer of the Torrance United Service Organization drive, today appealed to all those who have volunteered their assistance in the campaign to make their collection-contacts at once.

"To date only \$250 has been turned in," he said. "We know there are scores of workers yet to report their success and, because the time is growing short, we urge them to give the U.S.O. their attention this weekend."

Sears said local industries have generally contributed to the campaign and workers at the Columbia Steel and National Supply Company have made progress on their individual drives. Collections elsewhere have lagged, he said, but should pick up when the volunteer U. S. O. workers "get on the job."

Maxine Steele Writes Glowing Report of Visit With First Lady

As long as she lives, Thursday, July 16, will be a red-letter day in the life of Miss Maxine Steele. That was the day—just a week ago—that she was the guest of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Miss Steele, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Steele of 1320 Cota ave., is now ending her vacation trip to the east coast and will be home soon.



MISS MAXINE STEELE, guest at Val-Kill Cottage

Mrs. Roosevelt Tells of Local Girl's Visit

Mrs. Roosevelt in her syndicated newspaper column "My Day" had this to say under a Friday date-line, published on Monday, about the visit of Miss Steele to Val Kill.

"Our luncheon guests yesterday were three young people from New Jersey and a young school teacher, whom Congressman Geyer had asked me to see. She turned out to be a very charming girl from Los Angeles, who had come east to spend a few short hours with her fiancé, who is on a merchant ship now bound for South America. She is finishing her stay in this part of the country with a little sightseeing in New York City. I took these young people over to see the library and then, at 4:30, guests began to arrive at my mother-in-law's house, where the Hampton quartet sang for us."

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These Little Girls Don't Like Driving Autos Anymore

There are two little girls in Torrance who don't have any desire to learn to drive a car. They've already driven for the very first time and were involved in the strangest accident of the year to date.

Last Sunday evening, the youngsters were sitting in a machine parked in a driveway at the N. W. Rathbun home, 1443 Post ave. They were playing they were driving and somehow released the brakes and perhaps even started the motor.

Anyway, according to police reports, the car rolled out of the driveway, gained speed and backed into a car owned by Grace E. Jerome of Los Angeles, who was visiting across the street at the R. A. Huber home, 1444 Post ave.

The impact shoved Miss Jerome's car several feet up on the lawn, knocked out pieces of the cement curbing and badly damaged both machines.

The little girls were unhurt but badly scared.

Take This With You To the Voting Poll Here Next Tuesday

MEASURES SUBMITTED TO VOTE OF VOTERS	
"Shall LAWRENCE V. BABCOCK be recalled from the office of member of the City Council, City of Torrance?"	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
"Shall JOHN V. MURRAY be recalled from the office of member of the City Council, City of Torrance?"	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
"Shall GEORGE V. POWELL be recalled from the office of member of the City Council, City of Torrance?"	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
"If the recall prevails shall the Council fill the vacancy or vacancies by appointment, or call a special election for that purpose?"	By Appointment <input type="checkbox"/> By Special Election <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Chamber Cut Off From City Subsidy Fund

By a three-to-two vote with the Powell-Murray-Babcock bloc in the majority, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce was decisively cut off from its annual municipal subsidy Tuesday night at city council meeting. On motion by Councilman Powell, the city clerk was instructed to notify the chamber at once that the council will not appropriate any money to the civic organization during the present fiscal year.

Powell announced receipt of a letter from the chamber dated June 17 in which that organization reported its budget as \$7,145 for the current year. He said that in the past 14 years the city has appropriated "about \$170,000" for the chamber and "in my opinion has received little benefit from it."

"The taxpayers built the building the chamber now occupies and in view of the fact that the city needs all the money it can get, I make the following recommendation: I want it understood that the Chamber of Commerce has its place in the community but it should shoulder its own expense. The city will allow them the use of the building but the city clerk is to notify the chamber at once the city council will not appropriate (Continued on Page 4-A)

Cost of Audits Totals \$1,587

Contending that only one audit, costing \$750, was ordered by the city council during the controversy surrounding dismissal of former Judge Robert Lessing, Councilman Lawrence V. Babcock at council session Tuesday night declared "The Herald was in error in asserting the audit cost 'amounted to \$1,800'."

However, when asked by Grover C. Whyte, publisher of The Herald, to give the itemized account of the audits he had just received from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, Babcock read off the following figures:

"\$300.00 for an audit of the city books following the death of L. O. Stevens, deputy city clerk; \$1,125.00 for a quarterly audit made November 14, 1939; \$425 for a separate audit of the water department records, and \$750 for an audit of May 27, 1941 covering the city court for a six and one-half year period. This totaled \$1,587.50.

The Herald last week reported "Three special audits were authorized by the city council entailing an expense to Torrance taxpayers alone of \$1,587.50."

Four Noted Movie Personalities Will Entertain Rotarians

Headlining the Torrance Rotary Club's program this evening will be four well known motion picture and radio personalities, who are appearing in behalf of the Young American Flyers' club. Vincent Barnett, comedian and "ribber," who has co-starred in some 156 motion pictures, will be master of ceremonies and give the principal talk.

Supporting Barnett will be Edith Fellows, talented 18 year old radio vocalist and star of the picture, "Her First Romance." Others who will be introduced for brief remarks include Bobby Jordan, one of the Dead End Kids, and Jimmie Davis, star of the radio program, "Wings of Youth," which is broadcast over KMPC each Saturday morning from 10:30 to 11:30. William R. Murray, representing the Y. A. F. Club, will introduce Barnett.

Rotarians are bringing their wives and other guests to dinner and program. A capacity crowd is expected at the American Legion clubhouse for the exceptional program, which was arranged by Grover C. Whyte, publisher of The Torrance Herald. The Herald is sponsoring a Torrance Squadron of the Y.A.F. and all boys and girls in this community are invited to join.